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**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY  
FOR PATENT APPLICATION USING AN APPLICATION DATA SHEET (37 CFR 1.76)**

As a below named inventor, I/we hereby declare that:

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled HIDING ENCRYPTED MESSAGES IN INFORMATION CARRIERS, the specification of which

- [ ] is attached hereto.
- [x] was filed on July 25, 2001 as Application No. 09/916,207.
- [ ] was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed on \_\_\_\_\_, and as amended under PCT Article 19 on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).
- [ ] and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).
- [ ] with amendments through \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56. If this is a continuation-in-part application filed under the conditions specified in 35 U.S.C. § 120 which discloses and claims subject matter in addition to that disclosed in the prior copending application, I further acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby appoint practitioners at customer number 23735 (William Y. Conwell, Joel R. Meyer, Thomas M. Horgan and Steven W. Stewart) to prosecute this application, to represent me in filing and prosecuting corresponding international applications, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:



23735

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Address all correspondence and telephone calls to Steven W. Stewart

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

FULL NAME OF INVENTOR(S)

Inventor one: Geoffrey B. Rhoads

Signature: Geoffrey B. Rhoads

Date: 12-14-01

Citizen of: United States